

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 3, paragraph [0006]:

[0006] In accomplishing the objects of the invention, there has been provided according to one aspect of the invention a heating and air-conditioning system for a motor vehicle, comprising a conditioning housing; a first heat exchanger operably integrated within said conditioning housing; a plurality of air outlet openings in said conditioning housing for guiding air to front interior zones of a motor vehicle; a connecting section on the outside of said conditioning housing; an air outlet opening through said connecting section; and ~~selection either~~ means for selectively attaching to said connecting section either a releasable cover for covering, in a tight, leak-proof manner, said air outlet opening through said connecting section; or a rear temperature control unit attached in a tight/leak-proof manner to said connecting section and in fluid communication with said conditioning housing via said air outlet opening through said connecting section.

Page 3, paragraph [0007]:

[0007] According to another aspect of the invention, there is provided a motor vehicle comprising a heating and air-conditioning system comprising a conditioning housing; a first heat exchanger operably integrated within said conditioning housing; a plurality of air outlet openings in said conditioning housing for guiding air to front interior zones of a motor vehicle; a connecting section on the outside of said conditioning housing; an air outlet opening through said connecting section; and ~~selection either~~ means for selectively attaching to said connecting section either a releasable cover for covering, in a tight, leak-proof manner, said air outlet opening through said connecting section; or a rear temperature control unit attached in a tight/leak-proof manner to said connecting section and in fluid communication with said conditioning housing via said air outlet opening through said connecting section.

Page 4, paragraph [0008]:

[0008] In accordance with an additional aspect of the invention, there is provided a conditioning housing for a heating and air-conditioning system that can be adapted to produce either a two-zone, three-zone or four zone system, comprising a heat exchanger operably integrated within said conditioning housing; a connecting section on the outside of said conditioning housing; an air outlet opening through said connecting section; and ~~either~~ means for selectively attaching to said connecting section either (i) a releasable cover for covering, in a tight, leak-proof manner, said air outlet opening through said connecting section; or (ii) a rear temperature control unit attached in a tight/leak-proof manner to said connecting section and in fluid communication with said conditioning housing via said air outlet opening through said connecting section.

Page 7, paragraph [0015]:

[0015] In a further preferred aspect of the invention, the connecting section and the rear temperature-control unit are provided with flange members which correspond to one another and can be fitted together, to provide connecting structure. As a result, the rear temperature control unit can be securely positioned and centered. Tight, leak-proof attachment of the rear temperature-control unit to the conditioning housing is therefore ensured with interposition of suitable sealing means. The securing of the tight, leak-proof fit of the rear temperature-control unit to the connecting section is ensured by fastening means engaging in a bonding, frictional or interlocking manner.

Page 8, paragraph [0018]:

[0018] The heating and air-conditioning system according to Figure 1 has a conditioning housing 1 in which an evaporator 2 is arranged. The evaporator 2 is supplied with air via a fan, which is typically included but has not been depicted or described in greater detail here for the sake of clarity. The air then passes into a first air distributing space 3. A heating unit 4 which is provided with a water regulating means is arranged in an upper part of the housing 1. For this purpose, a regulator 5 is integrated into a water box of the

heating unit 4 and is used for the electrical control of PTC heating elements 33, which are typically included and but have ~~not~~ been illustrated schematically in the drawing here for the sake of clarity, within the heating unit 4.

Page 9, paragraph [0022]:

[0022] In a further preferred aspect of the invention, the connecting section and the rear temperature-control unit are provided with flange members which correspond to one another and can be fitted together, to provide connecting structure. Further, in the region of the flange members 14 which are used for centering and positioning the additional housing 10 on the conditioning housing 1, sealing means are provided which ensure the tight, leak-proof connection of the additional housing 10 to the conditioning housing 1 and the air outlet opening 13. The connecting structure includes fastening Fastening means 31 that are typically provided for securing the additional housing 10 to the conditioning housing 1 and for securing the tight, leak-proof connection-but are not illustrated here for the sake of clarity. The connecting structure preferably engages in a bonding, frictional or interlocking manner.

Page 10, paragraph [0024]:

[0024] In Figure 2, a two-zone variant of the conditioning housing 1 depicted in Figure 1 is provided. In the two-zone variant, the conditioning housing 1 as well as all of the functioning parts present in the conditioning housing 1 correspond to the design according to Figure 1. Accordingly, parts and units which are identical in construction and function are provided with the same reference numbers as used in the exemplary embodiment depicted in Figure 1. Only front temperature control is possible with the heating and air-conditioning system according to Figure 2. This is because the air outlet opening 13 arranged below the heating unit 4 and below the air flap 15 is closed here in a tight/leak-proof manner with a cover 18. The cover 18 is provided with plug-in or latching members 29 which are matched to the flange profile members 14 of the conditioning housing 1, so that a tight, leak-proof fit of the cover 18 in the air outlet opening 13 is ensured. The cover 18 is preferably provided with additional sealing means, e.g., resilient seals, which are not described in greater detail

here for the sake of clarity. Alternate designs for the members covering for the solution according to the invention can be formed by cylindrical bodies, such as stoppers or the like.

It can be seen from Figures 1 and 2 that the flange members 14 positioned below the air outlet opening 13 form part of the connecting structure for both the additional housing 10 as well as the cover member 18, i.e., the alternative additional members that are selectively chosen to cover the air outlet opening 13 depending on whether a two-zone air-conditioning system is desired or a system for serving more than two zones (front and rear sections of the vehicle compartment).